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STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Approved For Release 2003/02/27 : CIA-RDP83-00500R000200050050-3

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Director for Operations

DATE: 6 October 1948

FROM : Chief, Foreign Documents Branch

SUBJECT: FDB Monthly Progress Report - September 1948

Forwarded herewith progress report of FDB for month ending 30 September 1948.

I. Implementation of Recently Proposed Plans

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c. EUCOM Documents Project

The FDB screening team has returned to Washington. The reports of its activities and recommendations will be available in the near future.

d. USSR Press and Periodical

Administrative difficulties are being corrected by State to continue flow of USSR newspapers from Moscow to the United States by air. At the present time, Branch negotiations with State are in progress to include in the air shipments certain key periodicals vitally needed by FDB for exploitation purposes.

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SECRET

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e. Survey of Non-Governmental Agencies

The CIA Library is currently working on a project to ascertain the existence and availability of English language material of interest located in various areas throughout the United States. A representative of the CIA Library is visiting agencies in these areas for this purpose. Foreign Documents Branch is utilizing this opportunity to have these same agencies and repositories checked for foreign language holdings and has prepared in mimeograph form questionnaires to be filled out by the CIA Library representative on the spot. These "contact report" forms will assist FDB in segregating agencies that have nothing of interest to the Branch from those agencies that should be further exploited for foreign language material. Sixty-five (65) agencies will be covered in the field trip to [redacted] now in progress.

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f. Korea Document Project

The primary mission of the State screening team to Korea was to select documents for evacuation to Washington. However, in view of FDB interest in current North Korean publications, State has promised that every effort will be made by the screening party to procure them. Further, State will contact Army officials in South Korea to ascertain the feasibility of utilizing existing Army facilities to procure these publications.

g. "Third Country" Project

The State Department is currently receiving replies from its representatives abroad in conjunction with FDB project in surveying "third countries" to ascertain the existence and availability of USSR publications in countries other than the USSR. It is hoped that this survey will enable the intelligence agencies to increase coverage for the publications in question.

h. Coordination of Translation Activities

(1) Additional abstract cards were received from the Air Force Project [redacted]

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(2) A listing of completed translations and translations in progress was sent to the Branch by the Naval Research Laboratory.

II. Accomplishments

a. Library of Congress Catalogue Cards

Nearly 5,000 preliminary catalogue cards of foreign

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SECRET

language books received by the Library of Congress were forwarded to the Branch during September. To date, some 7,000 titles have been received covering seventeen languages.

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b. [redacted] Publication

Recently the Library of Congress turned over funds to the Department of State to cover all publications procured by State in [redacted]. Since FDB has an interest in these publications, a conference was held at State in which it was agreed that, initially, all publications will be channeled to FDB for screening. Publications of no value will be returned immediately to State for forwarding to the Library of Congress; publications of intelligence value will be returned by the same channels upon completion of exploitation.

c. Branch Briefing by Moscow Procurement Officer

A conference was held on 30 September during which Mr. Wesley Ruggles, State Procurement Officer in Moscow for the past two years briefed Branch personnel on the procurement situation in Russia. This meeting further confirmed the be-

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[redacted]

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[redacted]

III. Projects Contemplated or Recommended

a. Proposed Publication of Accession Lists by FDB

During the month formal recommendations were forwarded recommending the publication of an Accession List publication for foreign language books of intelligence value. Accession Lists would be mimeographed in form with a conventional CIA, FDB cover, flyleaf, explanatory note, table of contents, and subject matter. The publication of two (2) types is proposed: Scientific and General. In view of the increasing number of Russian books and monographs now being received by FDB and the existence of books in other repositories similar to those

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above have been deemed an appropriate medium for

SECRET

SECRET

nation in providing CIA and IAC with this information.

b. Coordination of Translation Services for IAC Agencies

FDB is authorized and directed by memorandum of ADO, 3 September 1948, "Function of the Foreign Documents Branch", paragraph 3,d(3), to coordinate with government agencies performing translation work. Because a central translation coordination service is seriously needed among government agencies, and since FDB is authorized to effect this coordination, approval for the below outlined project has been recommended:

(1) Collecting, carding, and adequately cross-filing all information on translations anticipated, in progress, or completed by government agencies co-operating in the coordination effort; operating this central translation file for the information and service of IAC agencies.

(2) Monthly publication of a "Consolidated Translation Survey" or "Consolidated Translation Bulletin" in which translations started or completed during the preceding month will be listed for the information of IAC agencies.

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